

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 MC-02 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /088 W

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R 101148Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5328

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR JO XF

SUBJECT: KING HUSSEINS FURTHER PRESS INTERVIEWS RE
MIDDLE EAST.

REF: AMMAN 5373 (NOTAL)

1. KING HUSSEINS AUGUST 7 PRESS CONFERENCE WITH REP
OF SEVERAL US PUBLICATIONS COVERED FOR MOST PART SAME
GROUND AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED UPI INTERVIEW (REFTEL) WITH
FOLLOW EXCEPTIONS.

(A) HUSSEIN SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO GO TO SOVIETS IN EVENT
HAWK SALE FELL THROUGH, BECAUSE COMPARABLE MISSILES TO FIT
JORDAN'S AIR DEFENSE NEEDS UNAVAILABLE IN WESTERN EUROPE.
HE ADDED HE WOULD IN SUCH EVENTUALITY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO
ACCEPT ON SITE SOVIET ADVISORS TO TRAIN JORDANINS ON MISSILE
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SYSTEM. BELIEVED SAUDI ARABIA WHO PAYING FOR MISSILES

WOULD ACCEPT HIS DECISION. HUSSEIN SAID SOVIETS HAD BEEN TRYING TO CONTACT HIM OVER PAST SEVERAL DAYS AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR SCHEDULED TO SEE HIM LATER SAME DAY. COMMENT(THIS CONFIRMS PUBLICLY WHAT KING HAS PREVIOUSLY TOLD US PRIVATELY ABOUT SOVIET EFFORTS TO CONTACT HIM ABOUT HELP ON MISSILES. THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN HELD OFF THUS FAR).

(B) HUSSEIN BELIEVES PROBLEM OF HAWK SALES TO JORDAN CAUSING SAUDI ARABIA AND EVEN IRAN(WHERE HE RECENTLY VISITED) RE REAPPRIASE RELIANCE ON US AS SOURCE OF ARMS PURCHASES AND WIDER ARAB WORLD TO QUESTION CREDIBILITY OF US AS HONEST RELIABLE PACE BROKER IN MIDDLE EAST.

(C) KING THOUGHT SADAT WOULD BE UNABLE TO REMAIN IN POWER LONGER THAN ANOTHER YEAR MAINTAINING PRESENT MODERATE STANCE IF NO APPRECIABLE MOVEMENT ON SINAI NEGOTIATIONS OCCURS SUFFICIENT TO KEEP DISCUSSION ENGAGED.

2. CMMMENT: WHILE CONTINUING TO EMPHASIZE DEFENSE CONTEXT OF HIS WEAPONS NEEDS, HUSSEIN IS NARROWING HIS OPTIONS RE SOVIET PROCUREMENT IN EVENT FULL HAWK PACKAGE UNAVAILABLE. KING'S MORE ACTIVE AND ASSERTING POSTURE IN MIDDLE EAST CONTINUED WITH ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY OF HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO SYRIA LATER THIS MONTH AND POSSIBLY EGYPT, OSTENSIVLY RETURNING ASAD'S AND SADAT'S EARLIER VISIT TO JORDAN.
PICKERING

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